

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on October 20, 2004, in the above-identified patent application, the Examiner has required Applicants to elect one of allegedly two patentably distinct species. In particular, the Examiner has identified Species I-II as follows:

Species I: Figure 1; or

Species II: Figure 3.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement because the search and examination of all the alleged species would not pose a serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully seek examination of the alleged Species I and II in this application.

Nevertheless, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Species I, which according to the Examiner corresponds to Figure 1. Moreover, although pursuant to the Examiner's requirement, Applicants identify claims 1-9 as corresponding to the elected Species I, Applicants submit that other Figures and Description in this application may support the elected species. Further, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the claims and/or related description. Regardless of whether any such statements are addressed above, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action. Applicants further reserve the rights to pursue other claimed inventions through divisional applications.

Finally, claims 22-25 were previously withdrawn.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees deemed to be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0897, upon which the undersigned is authorized to sign.

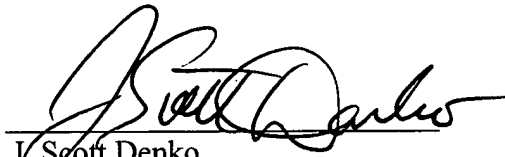
Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

DEC 20, 2004

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